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Letter dated 2 September 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of France in June 2005 (see annex). This report was prepared under my supervision, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Michel **Duclos**
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Annex to the letter dated 2 September 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of France (June 2005)

The Security Council undertook a very heavy programme of work in June 2005. The Council held 27 formal meetings in various formats and 16 consultations of the whole. This work led to the adoption of eight resolutions. The Council also issued six presidential statements and three statements to the press.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 3 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1603 (2005) by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) until 24 June, with a view to renewing it for seven months, endorsed the Pretoria agreement and recalled that all the parties which did not respect their commitments could be sanctioned, in accordance with resolution 1572 (2004). It also demanded that the parties implement fully the disarmament process without delay. It put in place an internal oversight mechanism for the electoral process, namely, the High Representative. It authorized the Secretary-General to begin preparations for the reinforcement of UNOCI.

On 23 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Pierre Schori, addressed the Council. It was his first appearance before the Council since he had taken up his post in Abidjan. The Special Representative provided a realistic picture of the difficulties the parties faced in meeting their obligations under the Pretoria Agreement. Both the electoral process and the disarmament process had reached deadlock. Mutual distrust between the two camps was preventing progress.

On 24 June, the Council adopted resolution 1609 (2005), which complemented resolution 1603 (2005) of 3 June. By resolution 1609 (2005) the Council increased the number of UNOCI troops, envisaged the possibility of redeployments among the three peacekeeping operations deployed in West Africa (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) and, finally, updated the mandate of the mission following the Pretoria Agreement.

In a statement to the press on 7 June following afternoon consultations, the President of the Council, speaking on behalf of its 15 members, condemned the massacres that had occurred in the region of Duékoué in the western part of Côte d'Ivoire.

Central African Republic

On 2 June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, reported to the members of the Council on the results of the presidential

elections in the Central African Republic and on the conduct of the voting. He conveyed the satisfaction of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) and the majority of the international observers regarding the smooth conduct of the elections. No disruptions or fraud marring the outcome of the elections had been observed. General Bozizé had been elected in the first round with 64.6 per cent of the vote.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, provided an update on the situation following the decision by the Congolese Parliament to postpone by six months the end of the transition period, originally scheduled for 30 June.

He drew particular attention to the tense situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where troops of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo faced violent opposition by armed groups refusing to participate in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

Burundi

On 16 June, the Minister of Justice of Burundi, Didace Kiganahé, addressed a public meeting of the Council. Mr. Kiganahé confirmed to the Council that the Transitional Government agreed with the recommendations of the Secretary-General regarding the creation of a mixed Truth Commission and a Special Chamber within the country's court system to investigate crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Burundi and to bring those responsible to justice. The arrangement was in accordance with the objective established in the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi signed in Arusha in August 2000.

Opening the discussion, the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Ralph Zacklin, recalled the origin and broad outlines of the recommendations of the Secretariat.

The members of the Council expressed their appreciation for the report. They were unanimous in stating that it was essential to put an end to impunity to ensure long-lasting peace and reconciliation in Burundi. They also noted the need for a prompt start to the discussions between the Secretary-General and the Burundian authorities regarding the implementation of the recommendations.

On 20 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1606 (2005), by which it formally confirmed its support for the creation of a mixed Truth Commission and a Special Chamber within the court system of Burundi and requested the Secretary-General to consult with the Burundian parties on how to implement his recommendations.

Liberia

On 16 June, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia introduced her report on the activities of the Committee and on the principal conclusions of the Panel of Experts. The situation described was unsatisfactory. The experts observed that the individual sanctions were not being applied. Illegal logging had resumed and Government

authorities were unable to regulate or curb it. Barely any controls had been placed on diamond production.

Delegations were unanimous in expressing concern regarding the conclusions of the Panel of Experts, particularly its findings with respect to the recruitment of former combatants on behalf of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. Allegations regarding Charles Taylor's influence and actions after he went into exile in Nigeria were also met with concern.

A broad consensus emerged on the need to renew the sanctions imposed on diamonds. The remaining sanctions were still in force.

On 21 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1607 (2005) renewing the sanctions on diamonds for a further period of six months.

Sudan

The Security Council met three times to discuss the situation in the Sudan.

During private consultations on the afternoon of 2 June, the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, informed the members of the Council of the results of the conference in Addis Ababa on the contribution of the international community to the African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS). The Under-Secretary-General believed that the Addis Ababa conference had been a success. Significant contributions had been announced. The African Union had demonstrated its accountability at the conference. However, the requirements for phase II had not yet been fully met. Additional funding must still be mobilized.

In Darfur, although the intensity of the conflict had diminished, the situation of civilians was still unacceptable. All conference participants had agreed that a political settlement must be reached in order to resolve the conflict in Darfur. Such a settlement must be given the highest priority. The Abuja meetings were scheduled to resume on 10 June.

On 29 June, the Council devoted itself to the various aspects of the situation in the Sudan. At a public briefing that morning, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo, reported on the status of the Court's preparatory work and on his initial contacts with the Government in Khartoum. The Government had informed him that a Sudanese tribunal had been established to deal with individuals who had committed crimes against humanity. He indicated that he had taken due note of that information and that he would establish contact with the new institution, whose work could complement that of the Court. That would not, however, have any effect on the mandate the Security Council had given him.

The Council members then met in closed session. All delegations agreed that the Khartoum Government should cooperate fully with International Criminal Court, pursuant to Council resolution 1593 (2005).

Following the discussion, the President of the Council read out a statement to the press.

Guinea-Bissau

The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs informed the Security Council about the conduct and results of the presidential elections in Guinea-Bissau. The voting had proceeded in a satisfactory manner. No major incidents had disrupted the smooth conduct of the elections and the candidates who were eliminated from the second round of balloting appeared to accept the verdict of the vote. The foreign observers who witnessed the vote had provided similar feedback regarding the overall voting process.

Americas

Haiti

On 7 June, the Security Council held a private meeting to hear the Prime Minister of Haiti, Gérard Latortue. The Prime Minister described the internal situation in his country and underlined the importance of the efforts of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to maintain stability and internal security. He said that the electoral process was the priority objective during the current transition period and that the ongoing support of the international community would be critical to accomplish that goal without delay. The Prime Minister expressed strong support for the recommendations of the Secretary-General to increase the troop strength of MINUSTAH.

On 22 June, the Council adopted resolution 1608 (2005), renewing the mandate of MINUSTAH until 15 February 2006.

Asia

Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

On 15 June, the President of the Security Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/23) welcoming the first general elections held in Bougainville.

Afghanistan

On 24 June, the Council heard a public briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan, Jean Arnault, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Costa.

The Special Representative reported on developments in Afghanistan, where the number of deadly incidents was rising. Reconstruction efforts were becoming increasingly difficult in the areas affected by the increase in violence. The insecurity was forcing United Nations agencies to scale back their activities. Preparations for the forthcoming elections were also complicated by threats against election workers and the candidates themselves.

Nevertheless, the electoral process was moving forward on schedule. The updating of the voter registry had just begun and would continue until 21 July. Funding for the electoral process was still $44 million short.

The "peacebuilding programme" to reintegrate members of the Taliban and the Hezb-Islami that had renounced violence should be continued, but with sound judgement. It was necessary to reach out to those wishing to break the cycle of violence and, simultaneously, to take into account the feelings of the Afghan people, whose memories of the suffering they had endured and of the perpetrators were still fresh.

The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime described the role that drug production had assumed in agriculture and the Afghan economy. Following a sharp increase in production in the past two years, the situation was beginning to stabilize. Although it would inevitably take time to eradicate the phenomenon, rapid action was still required.

Profitable alternative crops should be introduced in order to encourage farmers to plant different crops. In response to traffickers and warlords involved in drug trafficking, vigorous enforcement of existing laws was essential. Corruption and trafficking in border areas also should be punished severely.

All delegations recognized the challenge that drug production posed for Afghanistan's future and the need to sustain counter-drug efforts over the long term.

Middle East

On 17 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, introduced the monthly report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East.

The Israelis and the Palestinians were endeavouring to coordinate plans for the disengagement from Gaza. In Israel, opponents of disengagement were continuing to voice their opposition. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs expressed concern at the level of violence that had occurred in the preceding weeks.

With regard to Lebanon, the Under-Secretary-General recalled that the elections had been held on time. He urged all the parties involved to respect the sovereignty of Lebanon.

All the members of the Council voiced concern regarding the recent deterioration of security in the region, particularly in Gaza. They expressed the hope that the summit meeting between Ariel Sharon and Mahmoud Abbas planned for 21 June would make it possible to reinvigorate cooperation in the region.

Some delegations called upon the international community to play a role in the disengagement from Gaza, for example, by contributing to the success of the mission headed by the Quartet's Special Envoy for Disengagement, James Wolfensohn.

Regarding Lebanon, most delegations recalled their support for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) and their agreement that the parties should respect the Blue Line. The delegations unanimously welcomed the smooth conduct of the elections.

Lebanon

On 7 June, the Security Council, in a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/22), condemned the terrorist attack in Beirut that had killed Samir Qassir, a journalist. The Council also welcomed the determination of the Government of Lebanon to bring the perpetrators of the assassination to justice.

On 22 June, the Council, in a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/26), welcomed the successful holding of the parliamentary elections, held between 29 May and 19 June. It commended the fair and credible character of the vote. In the same text, it also condemned the assassination of the political leader George Hawi, assassinated on 21 June in Beirut.

On 30 June, the Council condemned in a statement to the press the attack emanating from Lebanese territory against Israel and the subsequent exchanges of fire. The members of the Council called on the Government of Lebanon to extend its control over southern Lebanon and called on all parties to respect the Blue Line.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 15 June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefly introduced the report of the Secretary-General concerning the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). The report recommended extending the mandate of the Force for six months. Its work was essential and was supported by the Syrian and Israeli parties.

All delegations endorsed the extension of the Force's mandate. On 17 June, resolution 1605 (2005), by which the Council renewed the mandate of UNDOF for a period of six months, was adopted unanimously.

Iraq-Kuwait/return of Kuwaiti property

On 20 June, the High-level Coordinator, Ambassador Vorontsov, introduced his biannual report on the return of Kuwaiti property seized by the Iraqi regime during its occupation of the Emirate in 1990 and 1991.

No progress had been made regarding the return of the Kuwaiti archives since the issuance of his last report. However, progress had been achieved with regard to the spare parts belonging to Kuwait Airways Corporation that had been found on board Iraqi Airways aircraft stationed in Tunisia.

The delegations that addressed the Council commended the High-level Coordinator for his efforts.

Iraq

International Advisory and Monitoring Board; Development Fund for Iraq

On 20 June, the former United Nations Controller, Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, introduced the report of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board for the Development Fund for Iraq for the period from June to December 2004.

The audit reports revealed that controls in the United States-operated agencies were insufficient to guarantee to what use resources placed in the Development Fund had been put. Some provisions of resolution 1483 (2003) had been violated.

The audit of United States contracts for the Development Fund recommended by the International Advisory and Monitoring Board was in progress and was expected to be transmitted to the Board in August.

The members of the Council voiced their support for the work of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board and expressed the view that the Development Fund for Iraq should operate more transparently.

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

At a public meeting on the afternoon of 16 June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Danilo Türk, provided a brief introduction to the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

The preparation of a national constitution in the coming months provided the Iraqi people with an opportunity to work together. The process should facilitate progress towards the restoration of a lasting peace. However, the extremely unstable security situation remained an obstacle that could undermine the transition process. The lack of security continued to restrict the ability of UNAMI to discharge its mandate and exposed its staff to serious risks.

In the private consultations that followed, all delegations voiced concern that the level of violence had intensified in recent weeks. Terrorism has to be fought resolutely. Some delegations expressed concern at the ongoing human rights violations in Iraq.

All delegations agreed that the process of writing the Iraqi constitution should be transparent and open to all segments of Iraqi society.

Europe

Cyprus

In informal consultations on 9 June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations introduced the biannual report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

The Assistant Secretary-General noted that the security situation on the ground had improved, the restrictions on the movements of the Force had been lifted and the number of incidents involving the two sides had decreased. All delegations commended UNFICYP on its work and endorsed the recommendation by the Secretary-General that its mandate should be renewed for a further period of six months, ending on 15 December 2005, at existing force levels and with no change to the concept of operations.

On 15 June, resolution 1604 (2005), renewing the mandate of UNFICYP, was adopted unanimously.

On 22 June, at a public briefing, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported on the results of his recent mission of good offices in Cyprus.

The purpose of his trip had been to assess the positions of each party before making recommendations to the Secretary-General regarding a possible future role for the United Nations. Both parties wished to resume talks under the auspices of

the Secretary-General. They agreed that the plan recommended by the Secretary-General was the starting point for the talks. Nevertheless, the gap between the parties on substance was wide and mutual trust was fragile. Given the circumstances, the Secretary-General could decide to send a representative to Cyprus on a regular basis to continue to assess the positions of the two parties. Delegations held private consultations following the briefing.

Other issues

International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

The Security Council endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the Council should extend the deadline for receipt of nominations for ad litem judges for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The President read out the reply to the Secretary-General at the formal meeting on 7 June.

Reports to the Security Council of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

On 13 June, the Council considered the biannual reports of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The Presidents and Prosecutors of the two Tribunals were present during the discussion.

The President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia confirmed that the trials at first instance could not be completed until 2009. In order to accelerate the Tribunal's work, some cases would be joined, others would be transferred to domestic courts and a fourth courtroom could be constructed. The Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia expressed her dismay that Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic and Ante Gotovina continued to evade the authority of the Tribunal.

The President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda said that the Tribunal would meet the 2005 deadline for completing the investigations into acts of genocide. Work was continuing regarding the allegations concerning the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

The members of the Council recalled their commitment to the completion strategies of the two Tribunals. They were unanimous in welcoming the improved cooperation with the Tribunals of the States concerned.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 21 June, the Council held a public meeting with the participation of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland. In his introductory statement, the Under-Secretary-General expressed concern regarding the scale of forced displacements (in particular in Uganda, Darfur and Colombia). He also drew attention to the increase in sexual violence (in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur) and the recruitment of child soldiers. He underlined the role of peacekeeping operations in providing access to vulnerable populations and making humanitarian assistance accessible.

All delegations condemned the events reported by the Under-Secretary-General, particularly the resurgence of sexual violence. Many delegations referred to the safety of humanitarian personnel and stressed the importance of protecting humanitarian convoys.

A presidential statement was agreed upon and was read out at the conclusion of the debate (S/PRST/2005/25).